Attorney Docket No. 46146-C2 (71758)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S):

Peter R. Rhode et al.

EXAMINER: Unassigned.

SERIAL NO.:

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GROUP:

Unassigned

(Cont. of USSN 09/067,615 filed 4/28/98)

FILED:

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## **CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on <u>May 3, 2001</u>, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee", mailing Label Number <u>EL730722690US</u>, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Patricia A Parnes

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, below the title please insert - This is a continuation of Application No. 09/067,615, filed April 28, 1998, which application is a continuation of USSN 08/596,387 filed on January 31, 1996 (now U. S. Pat. No. 5,869,270). The disclosures of